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North Vietnam - Cambodia: Hanoi has come out foursquare behind Sihanouk and his call for "national liberation."

In a government communiqué issued yesterday, the North Vietnamese declared their "total support" for Sihanouk's statement of 23 March that called for an uprising against the new government in Phnom Penh.

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Hanoi is presently relying on intimidation as the best way to handle the Cambodians. By their actions, the Communists have tightened the screws in the face of demands from Phnom Penh for a continuation of talks on Vietnamese-Cambodian issues.

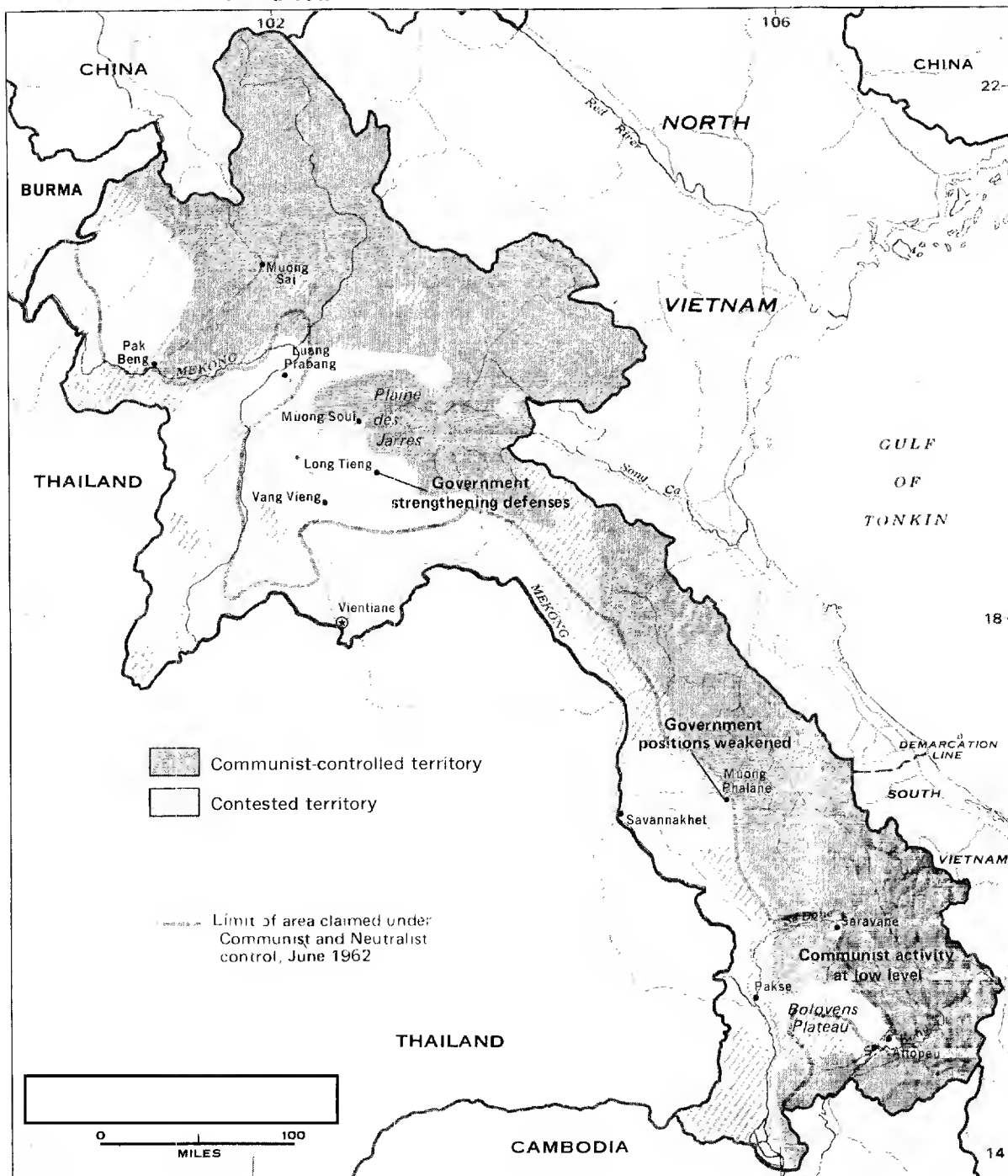
the Communists still hope to avoid resorting to force. They are almost certainly willing, however, to take military action, while concealing their activities under the guise of a "liberation movement," if they believe their vital interests in Cambodia are endangered.

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Laos: Current Situation



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Laos: The Long Tieng defense force has been strengthened significantly in anticipation of a major enemy assault.

Continued reinforcement has raised the number of troops in the immediate area to 3,400. The only significant ground action in the area occurred six miles north of the base, where a 300-man North Vietnamese force attacked a newly-occupied government position. Government troops suffered relatively heavy casualties in the engagement, but the North Vietnamese were pushed back.

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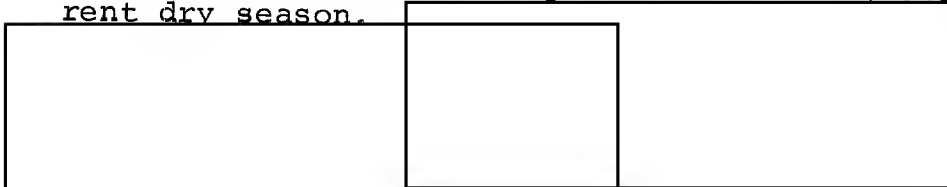
In the central portion of the panhandle, meanwhile, Communist forces have not yet attempted to take advantage of the government's weakened forces near Muong Phalane. Two government battalions, which had been successful in keeping enemy forces in this area off balance, were recently airlifted to Long Tieng.

Farther south in the Bolovens Plateau, Communist forces have been unusually inactive during the current dry season.

(Map)

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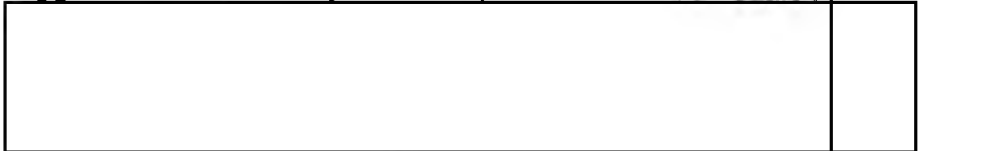
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South Vietnam: Communist units in many areas have been ordered to concentrate on guerrilla warfare and political subversion.

An increasing number of enemy documents have been captured that direct Communist commanders to use North Vietnamese reinforcements cautiously, to break up some main force units into small detachments to operate as guerrillas, and to avoid large combat actions that might result in heavy losses.

This shift in Communist battlefield tactics began in late 1969 as the enemy abandoned attempts to carry out countrywide "high points" and concentrated mainly on localized campaigns. The latest evidence of the shift supports other indications that the Communists plan to rely on low-level military tactics for some time to come.

This could mean that Hanoi is not trying for spectacular short-term results in South Vietnam, but it does not imply that the Communists are simply pushing on aimlessly. Their current tactics are designed to strengthen Communist capabilities for carrying on protracted military operations. They hope to take advantage of whatever favorable opportunities may develop at a later time.



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Burma: Maneuvering within the regime over the succession question has intensified since Ne Win's minor heart attack two months ago.

Vice Chief of Staff San Yu has become a more likely heir-apparent as a result of the most recent of a number of setbacks suffered by Brigadier Tin Pe. At one time Tin Pe was considered the second-ranking member of the government.

The ruling military Revolutionary Council on 24 March relieved Tin Pe of two important ministerial portfolios and assigned him to lesser posts. His ouster as minister of trade was connected with the recent arrests of officials in government trade organizations on charges of corruption.

Over the past year Tin Pe has been steadily eclipsed by San Yu, who has acted as the military regime's spokesman for continued commitment to Burma's brand of socialism and for the retention of military rule. San Yu's role as Ne Win's heir-apparent is not yet certain, however, in view of the obscure pecking order in the military leadership.

Foreign Minister Maung Lwin could also be in the running. Maung Lwin took on the two portfolios taken from Tin Pe in addition to his other responsibilities. A relatively obscure officer until his elevation to foreign minister last year, Maung Lwin has shown energy and ability and, according to some speculation in Rangoon, is Ne Win's personal choice as successor.



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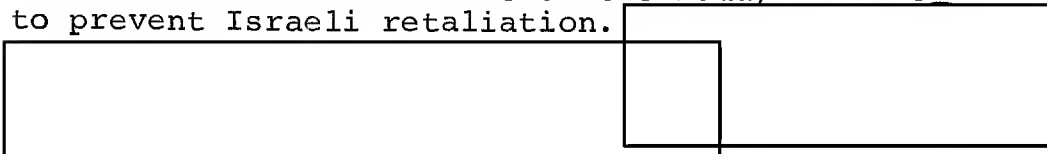
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Lebanon: Incidents yesterday between Palestinian commandos and Lebanese threaten to lead to a crisis between Christians and Muslims.

The first incident occurred when a fedayeen funeral procession went through Kahhale, a Christian town five miles southeast of Beirut, and a clash developed with local residents. The Lebanese Army moved tanks into the Kahhale area and separated the antagonists, but firing was then reported between fedayeen and Lebanese security forces in a nearby refugee camp.

A second incident occurred in a refugee camp north of Beirut where Palestinian commandos seized the son of Pierre al-Jummayyil, leader of the far-right Christian Phalanges Party; firing broke out between fedayeen and Phalangists. The Phalangists reportedly mobilized their paramilitary forces.

An emergency cabinet session was called in order to prevent a repetition of the violence that occurred last fall between the fedayeen and Lebanese security forces. Sentiment within Lebanon over the fedayeen issue is seriously divided between those--mostly Muslims--who support the fedayeen wholeheartedly and those--mostly Christians--who want the government to maintain firm control over the fedayeen in order to prevent Israeli retaliation.



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Trinidad: Black power protests are now focusing on the social and economic inequities that plague most Caribbean countries and are causing increased problems for the government.

The demonstration Tuesday in Port-of-Spain contrasted sharply with previous protests, which were originally touched off by a sympathy march for West Indian youths on trial in Canada. The unruly crowd of some 1,500 persons forced police to use tear gas, and the authorities responded with more vigorous action than in the past. Protest leaders have called for further demonstrations and have asked the people to prepare to "do battle."

In a speech Monday night, Prime Minister Williams attempted to defuse the situation by aligning himself with the "legitimate demands" of the protesters. Among other things, he promised to promote additional jobs through a new tax on business profits. After 14 years in power, however, Williams is identified with the status quo. Moreover, the government has frequently failed to respond to labor and social protests in the past.

Williams' predicament--how to maintain the stable image that has appealed to investors and yet attract the support of the growing black power movement--is becoming a common problem for many Caribbean leaders. Tourism revenues and foreign investment have offset economic and racial disparities to some extent, but the radical groups are focusing on these facets of what they object to as a "white-dominated economy." Williams, like others such as Prime Minister Pindling in the Bahamas, will probably have to move toward a policy emphasizing economic nationalism, in addition to adopting the rhetoric of the movement.



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Arms Control: A number of complexities at the Geneva disarmament talks are hampering progress toward control of chemical and biological warfare (CBW).

The UK draft convention banning BW has recently received damaging criticism from the nonaligned nations represented at Geneva. Some have decided that BW is not a serious military threat and that conclusion of a convention on the subject is unimportant or not urgent.

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The British draft is expected to take a position compatible with the recent US renunciation of military utilization of toxins, both those that are products of biological agents and those that may be created by chemical synthesis.

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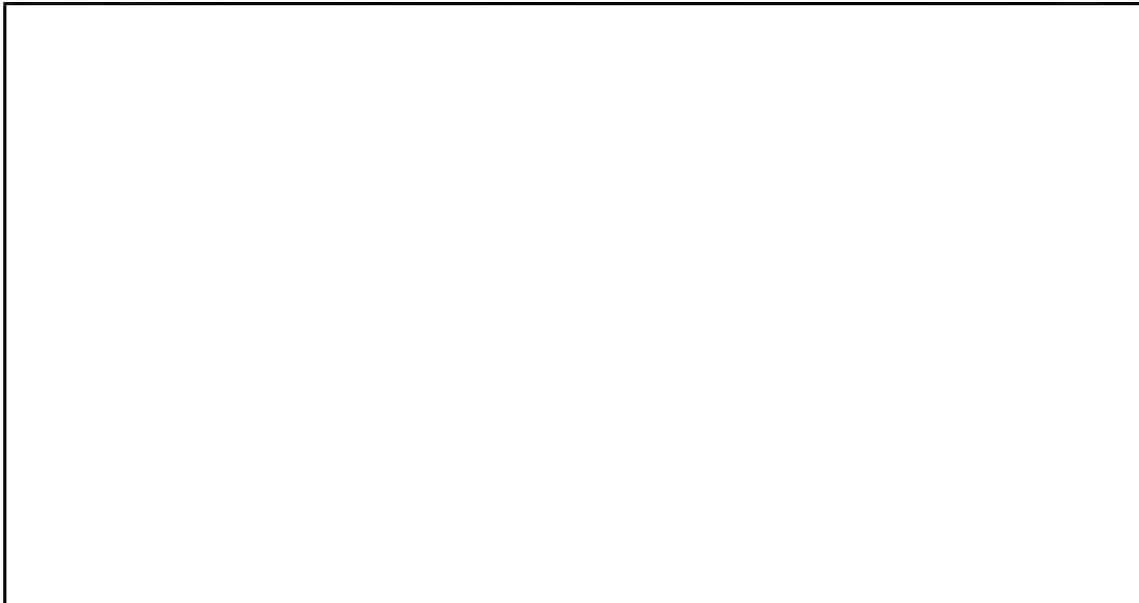
The Soviets and their allies are not pushing hard for an endorsement of their draft convention, which links CW and BW, and prohibits their development, production, and stockpiling. They are relying, however, on general interest at the conference in the linkage of CW and BW and are gradually leaking information to the other delegates on the kind of verification arrangements that they would accept. The Poles are expected to propose soon that such procedures be based on investigations and reports by the UN Security Council on suspected violations.

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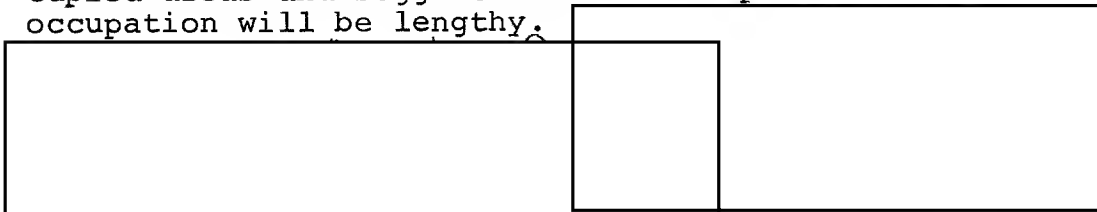
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UN - Middle East: The UN Commission on Human Rights has again condemned alleged Israeli violations of the Geneva convention concerning human rights in occupied territories. Tel Aviv has reiterated, however, that it will not permit a special working group from the Commission to enter Israeli-held areas. It maintains that the group is not objective and lacks a mandate to consider the treatment accorded Jews in Arab countries. The Arabs in turn are rebuffing suggestions that they ask for a protecting power to represent their interests in the occupied territories, a possibility provided for in the convention. The Arab governments involved believe that such a move could raise questions of sovereignty over the occupied areas and suggest to the Arab public that the occupation will be lengthy.



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Finland: Helsinki's decision not to sign the treaty establishing a Nordic Economic Union (NORDEC) could end the project. In a government statement, Finland justifies its decision by the activity of two of the other NORDEC participants--Denmark and Norway--who are looking to membership in the European Communities. In fact, the Finns seem to be bowing to Soviet opposition. In timing its decision, Helsinki may have hoped to assuage Soviet irritation over the mid-March parliamentary elections, which saw a significant shift to the right and big losses for the Communists.

[REDACTED]

Brazil: The government has extended its territorial waters claim from 12 to 200 nautical miles, according to a press report. It thus joins nine other Latin American nations that claim jurisdiction up to 200 miles either over territorial seas, fishing rights, or exploitation of the seabeds. Some Brazilian Navy officers previously opposed the extension because of the difficulty of patrolling the vast extent of waters along the country's 4,655-mile coast. The navy's increased responsibility will probably strengthen its determination to obtain several modern ships, principally from European sources.

[REDACTED]

Chile: Defense Minister Sergio Ossa has been impeached by the Chamber of Deputies in an attempt by the opposition parties to embarrass the government during the campaign for the presidential election in September. Although the government had attempted to mobilize military support for Ossa, there is little concern in the armed forces over the impeachment, which was taken because of his refusal to carry out a congressional order to pay pensions to retired military and police personnel all at once rather than in stages. Ossa is suspended from his position pending Senate action, which must come within 30 days, and Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes has taken over the defense portfolio.

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